



Helping students navigate from passion to profession.

Back to School: A Fresh Start to Dream Big

Tips for Parents

As much as students enjoy their summer vacation, most say they are eager to get back to school in the fall. They miss their friends, school activities — and even their classes.

Parents play a crucial role in helping teens take advantage of this fresh slate. Here are some tips on getting the new school year off to a good start:

- Set the tone. Your attitude is a model for the whole household. Tell your teens that you think they can handle tougher classes and that you expect big things from them to succeed.
- Make your expectations clear. Kids don't like surprises. Set specific expectations regarding school attendance, what courses will be taken, when studying will be done, and the time for "lights out" at night.
- Expect your teen to take challenging courses, even if that means they may earn a lower (though not failing) grade. Challenging courses will stretch their thinking skills and their study habits.
- Don't focus solely on grade point average (GPA). Kids who take challenging courses may see a temporary dip in grades. Support them through this time so they will know you believe in them.
- Expect rebellion. Remember, the kids will test you to see if you believe in them and if you are serious. Be ready to stand firm even when they push back, and have appropriate consequences ready.

65% of recent graduates say they wish they had worked harder in high school.

GROW. PREPARE. SUCCEED.

